

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages for Ministerial Briefing – February 4, 2022 12:19PM

- The number of protestors downtown diminished throughout the start of the week, then starting picking back up late Wednesday and Thursday. As of 11:23 AM today, there were 5 demonstrators on Parliament Hill and 20 on Wellington Street, and we expect those figures to rise throughout today, likely in the couple hundreds again.
- As mentioned yesterday, we are expecting the number of protestors to jump back up this weekend, with several convoys appearing to be pulling together to arrive in Ottawa tomorrow. Counter-Protests are also expected to increase with planned demonstrations tomorrow. The exact number of convoys and people is still to be determined.
- There are also numerous anticipated convoys in BC expected tomorrow. Details are not yet available, but we know there are planned convoys for the Island District, Langley, Vernon, Fort Nelson, Tofino, Fort St. John, and a meet and greet event to support the Ottawa convoy, to take place at 100 Mile House.
- The Situation in Coutts Alberta also persists, as of yesterday evening, there were 250 vehicles and 500 protestors on site, including a live band and some horses. I understand that the number of semi-trucks has decreased from 100 to 51. The situation has improved, with lanes open in both directions.
- The situation is however still very challenging at the RCMP checkpoint, with more entrenched attitudes by some of the groups. The RCMP is looking for ways to allow this to transition from unlawful to a lawful protest, by finding a safe location for trucks and protestors to congregate, that will not impede traffic.

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- In the National Capital Region, the RCMP is deploying additional members to support the OPS and their mandate today. 18 members are being deployed to start, and we are working to deploy the total 50 members, although it is not likely that deploying 50 members is attainable today.
- The RCMP must balance the potential deployment needs from across the country and all of its evolving needs. There are significant logistics required prior to deployment, and so these delays are normal and expected.
- There are also discussions underway with the OPP, who have agreed to stand up their Provincial Emergency Operations Center to enhance coordination efforts, and they may also deploy additional resources to support on the ground.
- Yesterday, our Ottawa citizens saw the protestors taking over their city by setting up a permanent structure for their own purposes and stock piling supplies of propane and gas in Confederation Park.
- A meeting between the OPS PLT, OPS Public Order and the NCC was convened at 11AM to discuss the approach in terms of removing the structure from Confederation Park. At this time, we have been advised that RCMP support would not be required for a planned event, whereby the structure would be removed.
- As an update, I now understand that the Ottawa Police have made at least four arrests and now have 36 investigations underway.
- From a protective perspective, the return to Parliament continues to go smoothly, with no incidents to note. Should that posture change, our members are prepared to scale up requirements at the various protected sites as needed.

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- As mentioned yesterday, discussions online show an intent to attend Harrington Lake, however this has not transpired, and we have no further information on any trucks or vehicles heading to Chelsea.
- Further intelligence from open sources indicate that individuals are organizing support to the truckers in Ottawa by providing additional supplies. Other posts indicate that counter-protesters aim to block access to this support at the parking lot entrance of 302 Coventry road.
- Intelligence also indicates that there are numerous convoys in Québec since February 2nd that continue to roll towards Québec City with a final destination being primarily the National Assembly. Others are encouraged to make their way to Ottawa. OPP Intelligence indicated that a possible 1000 interested participants have the intent to encircle the Parliament of Quebec tomorrow.
- We have now heard that the Reclaim Ottawa counter protest aimed for tomorrow, may be cancelled due to security concerns. The CIG continues to monitor the evolving narratives online.
- There remains to be no known organized plots of violence relating to any of the protests across the country at this time.
- From the OPS broadcast this morning, we know that a surge and contain strategy is being updated based on lessons learned and intelligence. There are now three pillars being focussed on. Deploying a surge of police downtown, hardening of access to the red zone using concrete barriers and heavy equipment to limit access, and enhancing intelligence and investigations by securing national and provincial resources.
- I understand the frustration of Ottawa residents, City Council, and the Ottawa Police as this situation continues on. We continue to work together on this evolving situation, and the most recent information I have is still that Ottawa Police will continue to use a measured approach and continue negotiations with the protest organizers.

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- Thank you for your time.

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